

TYPO 7 - September 1979 - a rider with DNQ 23, © Taral Wayne, all rights returned to contributors, past and present. This may very well be the last Typo as a separate zine. Victoria has been pushing for it as a regular column in DNQ instead. One or two letters per issue, and xerox reduced. C'est cela, Saara, or something... You have opinions?

Dear Taral

ERIC MAYER - 175 Congress st, apt 5F, Brooklyn NY 11201

I always enjoy DNQ. Has a nice atmosphere about it. It's supposed to be a newszine and carries news alright, but with all the other features it might be more like the typical genzines of a bygone era.

I can understand your depression at not having the money to mail out a fanzine already completed. In my year of doing Groggy I became depressed more than once at my inability to afford a large - or even sensible sized audience - and my inability to afford proper equipment to work with. I couldn't help feeling envious, and at times downright nasty toward fans like ~~Victor~~ who apparently had all the stuff I lacked. I wonder how the cost of putting out a fanzine today compares to the cost of putting one out during the 1940's? Everything is more expensive, but I think the cost of postage, paper and duplicating supplies have increased at a much greater rate. Also, since fandom has grown, the fan who wants to reach a decent percentage of fandom has to send out many more copies. So fandom may be a lot more expensive hobby than it used to be. And the more money is involved, the less fun. It would be interesting to discover the cost of putting out a zine 30 years ago and compare it to the cost today, taking into account 30 years of inflation.

I appreciated your review of Groggy. My determination to limit circulation is, as you might imagine from the foregoing, partly my making a virtue of a necessity. New York is too expensive. Of course, a small circulation maximizes pleasure and minimizes pain. How many reviews like yours does one need to make publishing worthwhile? Not many. As for response, I had 28 locs and pocs last time for 44 copies mailed. How many more locs could I read and appreciate? Besides, I think I get Groggy to those few who would like it. I doubt response would increase all that much if I doubled my circulation. I suspect (from experience) that my writing has a limited appeal. For some reason I seem to please some readers who are generally hard to please while leaving the majority of fans pretty cold.

I keep talking about keeping Groggy a "good" zine. But by "good" I mean a true reflection of its editor rather than "excellent" on some generally accepted scale. Were I to put out a genzine and solicit artwork from yourself and a few others and eliminate my own mediocre efforts it would be "better" than the present production but it would be better according to some abstract ideal, some impersonal scale. It wouldn't reflect all my interests any more.

Best, Eric.

Dear Taral & Victoria

Tim Marion - 2032 Cross Bx Expwy Apt 3D Bronx NY 10472

I think I have developed a healthy paranoia over trying to correct any of y'all's mistakes, as usually the correction is worse than the original mistake. In this case, I am referring to "Debut in NY Fan Society", a news squib which appeared in DNQ 19.



It's almost all wrong. I first came to New York City in mid-July of '78, and at that time, I was perfectly welcome to come to Fanoclast meetings. However, during that time, I came to be on the outs with a couple of people or so, including the person I was living with at the time. Thus, I moved away from NYC and moved in with Darrell Schweitzer, until I decided that I couldn't live with Darrell's mother anymore, at which point I went back down to the Philadelphia area and lived with Frank Richards for three weeks, as a stop-over point before moving in with Hope Leibowitz. During the time I was living with Frank, there was a Fanoclast meeting in which various people's names were brought up, and these two or three people who I was on the outs with had some fairly negative things to say (one person, who shall remain nameless could say only in her typically loud, shrill voice, "Tim Marion owes me \$3!" which I had indeed owed her for about two, extremely tight, months). So after I moved in with Hope, I had to put up with her absence every Friday night, and her telling me all about the exciting Fanoclast meeting every time I saw her the next morning. I learned to enjoy myself being alone, but I also became very lonely and bitter. Finally, through the efforts of mainly Larry Carmody, but also Moshe Feder and Elliot Shorter (the later being, coincidentally, one of the original people to speak against me), Andy Porter finally consented to me coming.

/errr... isn't that what I said? In much less detail and ignoring your attendance as a guest before the issue of your coming regularly came up? Taral./

Mike Wood's letter in the last TYPO was so fuggheaded that I honestly don't understand why you printed it. Mike is famed for having no sense of humour, so it is not really all that surprising that he should take your (mild) exaggerations about the current deplorable state of fandom so seriously. Perhaps Mike's idea that the post office isn't killing fanzines and that the rising hotel prices (and maybe scarcity of gas too, in the near future) aren't killing conventions comes from his being "myopically aware" (to use his own words) of only a few fanzines or conventions. Y'all's (or perhaps Saara's) reply to him was certainly more temperate than any I could have managed. (Saara's reply may have been even more temperate than Taral's would have been.)

/It was. It was. She has a mind of her own, even though it's on loan... Taral./

Dear Victoria Joseph Nicholas - 2 Wilmot Way, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 1JA UK
I notice that you've written "review (kindly?)" on the bacover of this issue but, although I'm flattered by the request (after all, you're virtually inviting me to stomp all over you, aren't you? It's not that DNQ is bad - otherwise why would I be subscribing? - but you're aware of my track record in respect of Simulacrum, right?), I'll have to decline. For the moment, anyway, since my next "K Is For Knife" column to appear in NABU 8 (published just in time for the Worldcon, as will millions of other British fanzines... like ANOTHER BLOODY FANZINE, for instance, and never mind DRILKJIS 4, DOT 7, TWLL DDU 16, ONE-OFF 7, INCA 1, SEAMONSTERS 4, GROSS ENCOUNTERS 6, and others too ephemeral to mention), will - as promised - concentrate on the need (or otherwise) for a focal point fannish fanzine, the supposedly impending sercon backlash, and other related matters. Not so much a straightforward review column, perhaps, but rather more of a commentary on the current state of fandom, with examples... Yes, yes; I'm using British fanzines as the starting point for a discussion of British fandom itself - something I've been doing since the start, you'll surely note - and with good reason: they cannot be separated from one another, and to consider any one fanzine without reference both to other fanzines and to the social context in which they are produced is to impose upon that consideration an artificiality so intense that the "review" in question will be, to all, intents and purposes, completely meaningless. In other words: I feel that I cannot possibly review American and Canadian fanzines in a manner that will at least satisfy me because I just don't know enough about American and Canadian fandom. Which doesn't mean that I don't want to know any more about it (them?) than the little I already do, because I would dearly love to know more - and I suppose the only way I can discover more is by receiving boatloads of American and Canadian fanzines. (Stick that remark in TYPO and see whether I get inundated... if I did I'd probably forever lose any hope of catching up with my fanac. As if things

weren't bad enough right now: I've got about a dozen different fanzines awaiting my attention, and some of them have been hanging fire since well before Eastercon. Ah, but I've been busy on matters connected with the BSFA, the SeaCon auction, ABF, the BY BRITISH fanthology... all of which constitute a reasonably plausible excuse, eh wot? In point of fact, you might even feel moved enough to run an apology from me in the next TYPO: "Joseph Nicholas apologiises to various American faneditors for not responding to their fanzines the moment they fell through the door, and wishes to confess to the world the guilt, paranoia, and despair with which this gross dereliction of his sacred fannish duty has irrevocably smitten him; but he's been Bloody Busy over the past few months, so there". Not that anyone would believe me for a moment, since British fandom has been so quiet of late that you could be forgiven for thinking that we'd all died; but it's been only a surface quietness, because underneath we've been beavering away on various special projects aimed specifically at the Worldcon, as that shortlist of fanzines-to-be-pubbed-in-time-for-it quoted earlier probably demonstrated.) In a future column, however, I hope to do you all justice - and I can just imagine how cold your blood will run when you start thinking of the "justice" that I am wont to dispense!

/Something you said seems to imply that you do not believe that DNQ is a British zine! We've published Langford, Shaw, Bell, Barker, and now you, and half of our news has been British. American zine indeed; you wound us, sir. Taral./

Dear Victoria Mike Bracken - 1810 Ramada Blvd, Collinsville, ILL 62234
First, much as I want to, I don't think I'll be at Ozzy 2 in August. Although money isn't tight around here, I expect it to be in the near future. It came down to a choice between publishing K21 or attending Ozzy. Being a fanzine fan through and through, and realizing that whatever acclaim I have in fandom is based on my fanzine, I opted for publication. I am sorry. Perhaps someday we'll manage to meet at some convention or other, though I can't honestly say which one. Nearing six years in fandom and having attended only one con, I can see the hermit jokes looming on the horizon. Then again, maybe I'm not well enough known to even be worth jokes... As for K21, the contents are all lined up. An article by David Gerrold, columns by Grant Carrington and Tom Monteleone, an article by Frank Bertrand, and, of course, your article. All of this is set in type and pasted up already. Eight pages and the covers have come back from the printer already. The only thing left for me to do is to get the lettercolumn set, and to write and set my editorial - I am temporarily at a loss for topics - and then it's a matter of squeezing dollars from the next few paychecks to pay for the rest of the printing.

Your note in DNQ20 that 4 or 5 of the 7 fanzines nominated for Best Single Issue are dead, strikes home here. Early in the year I had hopes of seeing KNIGHTS on next year's ballot, but my luck is running against me. Even with some of the heaviest competition gone, Bill Bowers has resumed publishing. XENOLITH 2 arrived today. His name alone sends shivers down my spine, and X isn't even that good - probably some schematic problems here, my definitions of good, and everybody else's definitions probably won't match - but such is life... I wish I could nominate myself... hell, despite my ego, I know I've published a few issues that were as good or better than what appeared on the final ballot in the past few years. And why am I high in the LOCUS poll? I wish I knew the answers to all these esoteric questions.

/LOCUS poll? There still is one? Well, that's something; most LOCUS readers probably don't know the rest of the fanzines in fandom even exist... ~~that could have something to do with it.~~ I suppose one even more anxious about FAAns and Hugos than I am. It takes the heat off. Taral/

Dear Victoria Jim Barker - 113 Windsor rd, Falkirk, Stirlingshire FK1 fDB Scotland
Dave Langford and I are both pleased at your TAFF support, but you got it a bit wrong... we're actually planning a Barker-written report with Langford illos... I note that you were a bit sceptical in a recent DNQ about Dave's report that SeaCon had been relocated to central Scotland. Can I draw your attention to the plug in the latest BSFA MATRIX which clearly states that SeaCon will be held in the Hotel Metropole, Glasgow? I don't know what caused the concommittee to change venues but in the month and a half that's left, we Scots fans will certainly try to cobble together some sort of convention for

you trans-Atlantic fans, perhaps hampered by the fact that Glasgow doesn't actually have a Hotel Metropole. However, we are investigating the possible use of a boarding house in Saltcoats... I hope you enjoy NOVACON 9 WEST. I definitely won't be there, I'm afraid. Dave Langford pointed out that a trip over would affect my TAFF chances. I'd like to have gone to meet Taral and shake him by the throat for that "Jim Barkeep" cartoon a few issues back. I should be exhibiting some artwork though. Orrabest, Jim.

Taral

Bruce Townley - 2323 Sibley st, Alexandria VA 22311

Thanks a ton for DNQ. Sorry if I thoughtlessly incurred yer wrath by only sending my PHIZ to Victoria, I was unaware of your basically sensible trade policy (I have some trouble with folks who are married and living together at the same mailing address and everything demanding two separate trade copies as Bill Kunkel and his wife used to require for RATS!) so please accept my apologies for any pissing off so caused. Found #21 quite enjoyable if not all that newsy (probably made it more readable anyway) so please find enclosed which should pay for ten issues. I dunno if you've noticed it or not but Devo seems quite concerned with automobiles, on the first album two songs mention cars (not The Cars, though) directly, being Sloppy and Come Back Jones (with the latter's highway death very similar to the Beatle's line in A Day In The Life, "He blew his mind out in a car", I always thought Devo woulda made it as a British Invasion band if they could) which might explain the consternation that Victoria's car experienced when left outside in the street during the Devo concert. Only solution I can suggest is the rather expensive one of installing a cassette deck in the car and playing their albums continuously much as my friend Jay does (he claims he gets better mileage that way, mainly because most of his friends now refuse to ride in the car with him and his Devo albums, so maybe he's making some of his initial investment back). Hope you've gotten out of some of your financial troubles and say hi to Victoria, Simon, and Phil for me (I'm too lazy to write em).

Best, Bruce.

/Jesus, last I heard from you, Bruce, you still hated my guts for the Townley Parks illos I did a few years back. Oh, well, anyone who likes Devo can't be all bad, and I liked PHIZ, which somehow arrived at my place anyway... Taral/

Dear Saara

Kevin Smith - 7 Fassett rd, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey, KT1 2TD UK

Don't be silly! Who the hell has the reflexes to catch an A4 fanzine doing 0.88c in a shoebox? You Americans just aren't practical enough. Of course, if you insist on being theoretical, it is obvious that the shoebox (which is, after all, travelling at 0.88 time the speed of light relative to the fanzine) is much too short to take the fanzine. Besides, what's the use of a shoebox that will only hold a fanzine for a nanosecond or so?

Kevin Smith.

/Then the fanzine will just have to go faster still! Until it fits! 'Cause I certainly don't need that shoebox to hold shoes. I don't got any. (Actually, I could justify such a non-relativistic phenomom as a high-velocity fanzine fitting into a shoebox using - are you ready for this? - the non-causal physics of Imaginary velocities in Complex spaces. The Twin Paradox in Relativity is a special case. But I'd be only snowing you with unlikey circumstances and abstruse math. American?

Can't you tell your own primitive tribes apart? See that? That's fur, boy. And pointy ears, steel teeth, three toes, nice rounded chin... Saara een inkjola! Saara/

Dear Taral and Victoria

George Flynn - 26 Putnam st, Somerville MA 02143

Interesting to see that the debate is still going on as to whether apas are moribund. I figured you might be intered in a table I prepared recently, giving the size of the major New England based apas over the last couple of years. Mike Wood is well aware of these figures, since he's in two of the apas in question. Personally I think the field's gotten too varied to draw any general conclusions; as in other aspects of fandom apas to a large extent consist of little groups unaware of each other's existence. I don't have any first-hand knowledge of the history of MidWestCons, but I do note that Tucker's sequence of events differs from that reported by Harry Warner. Let's see, what else is news? NESFA is being overrun with babies. Apaloosa is being folded at the August collation, while Apa: NESFA is having a hoax issue for #111. Chip Hitchcock (intrepid Bosklone chairman) has been teaching a summer course on SF... George.